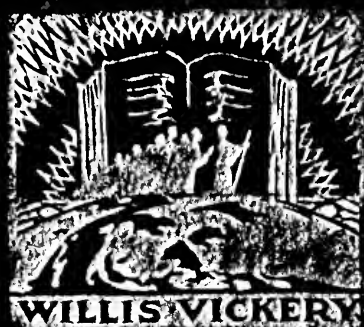
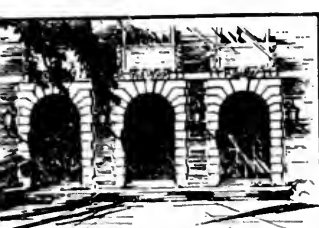


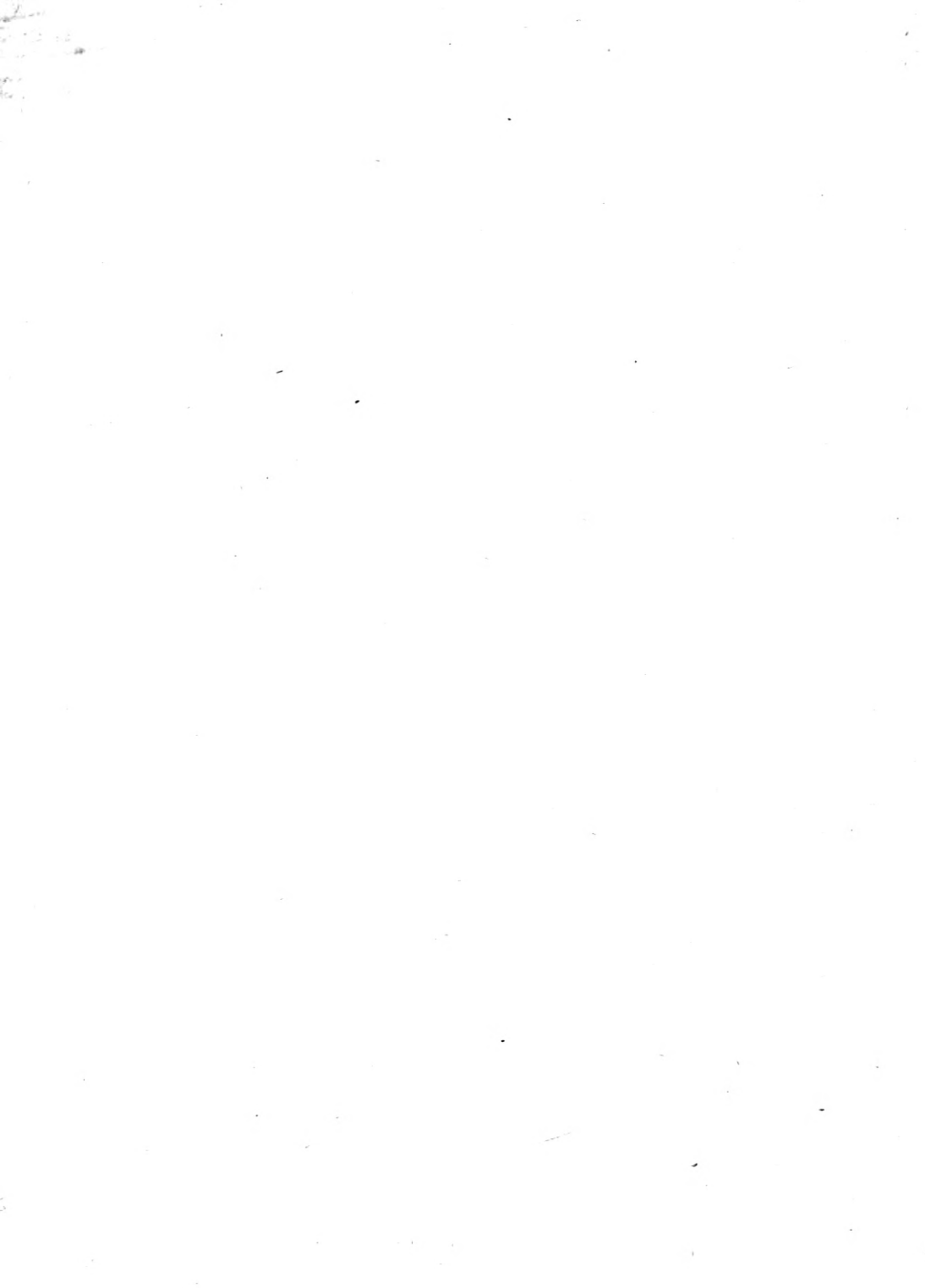
Fowre Hymnes
—
Spenser
1596







LIBRARY
OF THE
UNIVERSITY
OF ILLINOIS





Fowre Hymnes,

MADE BY
EDM. SPENSER.



LONDON,
Printed for VWilliam Ponsonby.
1596.



Folio Hymns

EDITED BY

W. B. E. B. B. B.



LONDON

Printed for W. B. E. B. B.

1850



TO THE RIGHT HO-
NORABLE AND MOST VER-
tuous Ladies, the Ladie Margaret Countesse
of Cumberland, and the Ladie Marie
Countesse of Warwicke.

Having in the greener times
of my youth, composed these
former two Hymnes in the
praise of Loue and beautie,
and finding that the same
too much pleased those of
like age & dispositiō, which
being too vehemently caried
with that kind of affection,
do rather sucke out poyson to their strong passion, then
hony to their honest delight, I was moued by the one of
you two most excellent Ladies, to call in the same. But
being unable so to doe, by reason that many copies
thereof were formerly scattered abroad, I resolued at
least to amend, and by way of retractation to reforme
them, making in stead of those two Hymnes of earthly
or naturall loue and beautie, two others of heauenly and
celestiall. The which I doe dedicate ioyntly vnto you
two honorable sisters, as to the most excellent and rare
ornaments of all true loue and beautie, both in the one

*and the other kinde, humbly beseeching you to vouch-
safe the patronage of them, and to accept this my hum-
ble seruice, in lieu of the great graces and honourable
fauours which ye dayly shew vnto me, untill such time
as I may by better meanes yeeld you some more notable
testimonie of my thankfull mind and dutifull deuotion.*

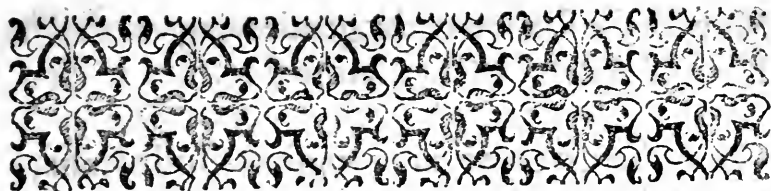
And euen so I pray for your happinesse.

Greenwich this first of September.

1596.

*Your Honors most bounden euer
in all humble seruice.*

Ed. Sp.



AN HYMNE IN HONOUR OF LOVE.

Loue, that long since hast to thy mighty powre,
Perforce subdude my poore captised hart,
And raging now therein with restlesse stowre,
Doeſt tyrannize in euerie weaker part;
Faine would I ſeek to eaſe my bitter ſmart,
By any ſeruice I might do to thee,
Or ought that elſe might to thee pleaſing bee.

And now t'aſſwage the force of this new flame,
And make thee more propitious in my need,
I meane to ſing the praifes of thy name,
And thy victorious conqueſts to areed;
By which thou madeſt many harts to bleed
Of mighty Victors, with wyde wounds embrewed,
And by thy cruell darts to thee ſubdewed.

Onely I feare my wits enfeeble late, (bred,
Through the ſharpe ſorrowes, which thou haſt me
Should faint, and words ſhould faile me, to relate
The wondrous triumphs of thy great godhed.
But if thou wouldeſt vouchſafe to ouerſpred

Me with the shadow of thy gentle wing,
I should enabled be thy actes to sing.

Come then, ô come, thou mightie God of loue,
Out of thy siluer bowres and secret blisse,
Where thou doest sit in *Venus* lap aboute,
Bathing thy wings in her ambrosiall kisse,
That sweeter farre then any Nectar is;
Come softly, and my feeble breast inspire
With gentle furie, kindled of thy fire.

And ye sweet Muses, which haue often proued
The piercing points of his auengefull darts;
And ye faire Nymphs, which oftentimes haue loued
The cruell worker of your kindly smarts,
Prepare your selues, and open wide your harts,
For to receiue the triumph of your glorie,
That made you merie oft, when ye were sorie.

And ye faire blossomes of youths wanton breed,
Which in the conquests of your beautie boist,
Wherewith your louers feeble eyes you feed,
But sterue their harts, that needeth nourture most,
Prepare your selues, to march amongst his host,
And all the way this sacred hymne do sing,
Made in the honor of your Soueraigne king.

Great

Great god of might, that reignest in the mynd,
 And all the bodie to thy hest doest frame,
 Vict'or of gods, subduer of mankynd,
 That doest the Lions and fell Tigers tame,
 Making their cruell rage thy scornfull game,
 And in their roring taking great delight;
 Who can expresse the glorie of thy might?

Or who aliue can perfectly declare,
 The wondrous cradle of thine infancie?
 When thy great mother *Venus* first thee bare,
 Begot of Plentie and of Penurie,
 Though elder then thine owne natiuitie;
 And yet a chyld, renewing still thy yeares;
 And yet the eldest of the heauenly Peares.

For ere this worlds still mouing mightie masse,
 Out of great *Chaos* vgly prision crept,
 In which his goodly face long hidden was
 From heauens view, and in deepe darknesse kept,
 Loue, that had now long time securely slept
 In *Venus* lap, vnarmed then and naked,
 Gan reare his head, by *Clotho* being waked.

And taking to him wings of his owne heate,
 Kindled at first from heauens life-giuing fyre,
 He gan to moue out of his idle seate,
 VWeakely at first, but after with desyre
 Lifted aloft, he gan to mount vp hyre,
 And like fresh Eagle, make his hardie flight
 Through all that great wide wast, yet wating light.

Yet wanting light to guide his wandring way,
 His owne faire mother, for all creatures sake,
 Did lend him light from her owne goodly ray:
 Then through the world his way he gan to take,
 The world that was not till he did it make;
 Whose fundrie parts he frō them selues did seuer,
 The which before had lyen confused euer.

The earth, the ayre, the water, and the fyre,
 Then gan to raunge them selues in huge array,
 And with contrary forces to conspyre
 Each against other, by all meanes they may,
 Threatning their owne confusion and decay:
 Ayre hated earth, and water hated fyre,
 Till Loue relented their rebellious yre.

He then them tooke, and tempering goodly well
 Their contrary dislikes with loued meanes,
 Did place them all in order, and compell
 To keepe them selues within their fundrie raines,
 Together linkt with Adamantine chaines;
 Yet so, as that in every liuing wight
 They mixe themselues, & shew their kindly might.

So euer since they firmly haue remained,
 And duly well obserued his behest; (ned
 Through which now all these things that are cōtai-
 Within this goodly cope, both most and least
 Their being haue, and dayly are increast,
 Through secret sparks of his infused fyre,
 Which in the barraine cold he doth inspyre.

Thereby

Thereby they all do liue, and moued are
 To multiply the likenesse of their kynd,
 Whilest they seeke onely, without further care,
 To quench the flame, which they in burning fynd:
 But man, that breathes a more immortall mynd,
 Not for lusts sake, but for eternitie,
 Seekes to enlarge his lasting progenie.

For hauing yet in his deducted spright,
 Some sparks remaining of that heauenly fyre,
 He is enlumind with that goodly light,
 Vnto like goodly semblant to aspyre:
 Therefore in choice of loue, he doth desyre
 That seemes on earth most heauenly, to embrace,
 That same is Beautie, borne of heauenly race.

For sure of all, that in this mortall frame
 Contained is, nought more diuine doth seeme,
 Or that resembleth more th'immortall flame
 Of heauenly light, then Beauties glorious beame.
 What wonder then, if with such rage extreme
 Fraile men, whose eyes seek heauenly things to see,
 At sight thereof so much enrauisht bee?

Which well perceiuing that imperious boy,
 Doth therwith tip his sharp empoisoned darts; (coy,
 Which glancing through the eyes with couētenāce
 Rest not, till they haue pierst the trembling harts,
 And kindled flame in all their inner parts,
 Which suckes the blood, and drinketh vp the lyfe
 Of carefull wretches with consuming griefe.

Thenceforth they playne, & make ful piteous mone
 Vnto the author of their balefull bane; (grone,
 The daies they waste, the nights they grieve and
 Their liues they loath, and heauens light disdaine;
 No light but that, whose lampe doth yet remaine
 Fresh burning in the image of their eye,
 They deigne to see, and seeing it still dye.

The whylst thou tyrant Loue doest laugh & scorne
 At their complaints, making their paine thy play;
 Whylest they lye languishing like thrals forlorne,
 The whyles thou doest triumph in their decay,
 And otherwhyles, their dying to delay,
 Thou doest emmarble the proud hart of her,
 Whose loue before their life they doe prefer.

So hast thou often done (ay me the more)
 To me thy vassall, whose yet bleeding hart;
 With thousand wounds thou mangled hast so fore
 That whole remains scarce any little part,
 Yet to augment the anguish of my smart,
 Thou hast enfrosen her disdainefull brest,
 That no one drop of pitie there doth rest.

Why then do I this honor vnto thee,
 Thus to ennoble thy victorious name,
 Since thou doest shew no fauour vnto mee,
 Ne once moue ruth in that rebellious Dame,
 Somewhat to slacke the rigour of my flame?
 Certes small glory doest thou winne hereby,
 To let her liue thus free, and me to dy.

But

But if thou be indeede, as men thee call,
 The worlds great Parent, the most kind preseruer
 Of liuing wights, the soueraine Lord of all,
 How falles it then, that with thy furious seruour,
 Thou doest afflict as well the not deseruer,
 As him that doeth thy louely heasts despize,
 And on thy subjects most doest tyrannize?

Yet herein eke thy glory seemeth more,
 By so hard handling those which best thee serue,
 That ere thou doest them vnto grace restore,
 Thou mayest well trie if they will euer swerue,
 And mayest them make it better to deserue,
 And hauing got it, may it more esteeme,
 For things hard gotten, men more dearely deeme.

So hard those heauenly beauties be enfyred,
 As things diuine, least passions doe impresse,
 The more of stedfast mynds to be admyred,
 The more they stayed be on stedfastnesse:
 But baseborne mynds such lamps regard the lesse,
 Which at first blowing take not hastie fyre,
 Such fancies feele no loue, but loose desyre.

For loue is Lord of truth and loialtie,
 Lifting himselfe out of the lowly dust,
 On golden plumes vp to the purest skie,
 About the reach of loathly sinfull lust,
 Whose base affect through cowardly distrust
 Of his weake wings, dare not to heauen fly,
 But like a moldwarpe in the earth doth ly.

His dunghill thoughts, which do themselves enure
 To dirtie drosse, no higher dare aspyre,
 Ne can his feeble earthly eyes endure
 The flaming light of that celestiall fyre,
 Which kindleth loue in generous desyre,
 And makes him mount aboute the natiue might
 Of heauie earth, vp to the heauens hight.

Such is the powre of that sweet passion,
 That it all fordid basenesse doth expell,
 And the refyned mynd doth newly fashion
 Vnto a faire forme, which now doth dwell
 In his high thought, that would it selfe excell;
 Which he beholding still with constant sight,
 Admires the mirrour of so heavenly light.

VVhose image printing in his deepest wit,
 He thereon feeds his hungrie fantasy,
 Still full, yet neuer satisfyde with it,
 Like *Tantale*, that in store doth steruedly:
 So doth he pine in most satiety,
 For nought may quench his infinite desyre,
 Once kindled through that first conceived fyre.

Thereon his mynd affixed wholly is,
 Ne thinks on ought, but how it to attaine;
 His care, his ioy, his hope is all on this,
 That seemes in it all blisses to containe,
 In sight whereof, all other blisse seemes vaine.
 Thise happie man, might he the same possesse;
 He faines himselfe, and doth his fortune blesse.

And

And though he do not win his wish to end,
 Yet thus farre happie he him selfe doth weene,
 That heauens such happie grace did to him lend,
 As thing on earth so heauenly, to haue scene,
 His harts enshrined saint, his heauens queene,
 Fairer then fairest, in his fayning eye,
 Whose sole aspect he counts felicitye.

Then forth he casts in his vnquiet thought,
 What he may do, her fauour to obtaine;
 What braue exploit, what perill hardly wrought,
 What puissant conquest, what aduenturons paine,
 May please her best, and grace vnto him gaine:
 He dreads no danger, nor misfortune feares,
 His faith, his fortune, in his breast he beares.

Thou art his god, thou art his mightie guyde,
 Thou being blind, letst him not see his feares,
 But cariest him to that which he hath eyde,
 Through seas, through flames, through thousand
 swords and speares:

Ne ought so strong that may his force withstand,
 With which thou armetst his resistlesse hand.

Witnesse *Leander*, in the Euxine waues,
 And stout *Aeneas* in the Troiane fyre,
Achilles preassing through the Phrygian glaiues,
 And *Orpheus* daring to prouoke the yre
 Of damned fiends, to get his loue retyre:
 For both through heauen & hell thou makest way,
 To win them worship which to thee obay.

And if by all these perils and these paynes,
 He may but purchase lyking in her eye,
 What heaucens of ioy, then to himselfe he faynes,
 Eftsoones he wypes quite out of memory,
 What euer ill before he did aby,
 Had it bene death, yet would he die againe,
 To liue thus happie as her grace to gaine.

Yet when he hath found fauour to his will,
 He nathemore can so contented rest,
 But forceth further on, and striueth still
 T'approch more neare, till in her inmost brest,
 He may embosomd bee, and loued best;
 And yet not best, but to be lou'd alone,
 For loue can not endure a Paragone.

The feare whereof, ô how doth it torment
 His troubled mynd with more then hellish paine!
 And to his fayning fansie represent
 Sights neuer scene, and thousand shadowes vaine;
 To breake his sleepe, and waste his ydle braine;
 Thou that hast neuer lou'd canst not beleue,
 Least part of th'euils which poore louers greeue.

The gnawing enuie, the hart-fretting feare,
 The vaine surmizes, the distrustfull shoves,
 The false reports that flying tales doe beare,
 The doubts, the daungers, the delayes, the woes,
 The fayned friends, the vnassured foes,
 With thousands more then any tongue can tell,
 Doe make a louers life a wretches hell.

Yet

Yet is there one more curſed then they all,
That cancker worme, that monſter Gelofie,
Which eates the hart, and feedes vpon the gall,
Turning all loues delight to miſerie,
Through feare of looſing his felicitie.
Ah Gods, that euer ye that monſter placed
In gentle loue, that all his ioyes defaced.

By theſe, ô Loue, thou doeſt thy entrance make,
Vnto thy heauen, and doeſt the more endecre,
Thy pleaſures vnto thoſe which them partake,
As after ſtormes when clouds begin to cleare,
The Sunne more bright & glorious doth appeare;
So thou thy folke, through paines of Purgatorie,
Doſt beare vnto thy bliſſe, and heauens glorie.

There thou them placeſt in a Paradize
Of all delight, and ioyous happie reſt,
Where they doe feede on Nectar heauenly wize,
With *Hercules* and *Hebe*, and the reſt
Of *Venus* dearlings, through her bountie bleſt,
And lie like Gods in yuorie beds arayd,
With roſe and lillies ouer them diſplayd.

There with thy daughter *Pleaſure* they doe play
Their hurtleſſe ſports, without rebuke or blame,
And in her ſnowy boſome boldly lay
Their quiet heads, deuoyd of guilty ſhame,
After full ioyance of their gentle game, (*Queene*,
Then her they crowne their Goddeſſe and their
And decke with floures thy altars well beſeene.

Ay me, deare Lord, that euer I might hope,
For all the paines and woes that I endure,
To come at length vnto the wished scope
Of my desire, or might my selfe assure,
That happie port for euer to recure.
Then would I thinke these paines no paines at all,
And all my woes to be but penance small.

Then would I sing of thine immortall praise
An heauenly Hymne, such as the Angels sing,
And thy triumphant name then would I raise
Boue all the gods, thee onely honoring,
My guide, my God, my victor, and my king;
Till then, dread Lord, vouchsafe to take of me
This simple song, thus fram'd in praise of thee.

FINIS.

AN



AN HYMNE IN HONOUR OF BEAVTIE.

AH whither, Loue, wilt thou now carrie mee?
What wontlesse fury dost thou now inspire
Into my feeble breast, too full of thee?
Whylest seeking to aslake thy raging fyre,
Thou in me kindlest much more great desyre,
And vp aloft aboue my strength doest rayse
The wondrous matter of my fyre to prayse.

That as I earst in praise of thine owne name,
So now in honour of thy Mother deare,
An honourable Hymne I eke should frame,
And with the brightnesse of her beautie cleare,
The ravisht harts of gazefull men might reare,
To admiration of that heauenly light,
From whence proceeds such soule enchanting
(might.

Therto do thou great Goddesse, queene of Beauty,
Mother of loue, and of all worlds delight,
Without whose souerayne grace and kindly dewty,
Nothing on earth seemes fayre to fleshly sight,
Doe thou vouchsafe with thy loue-kindling light,
Tilluminat my dim and dilled eyne,
And beautifie this sacred hymne of thyne.

That both to thee, to whom I meane it most,
 Andeke to her, whose faire immortall beame,
 Hath darted fyre into my feeble ghost,
 That now it wasted is with woes extreame,
 It may so please that she at length will streame
 Some dew of grace, into my withered hart,
 After long sorrow and consuming smart.

(did cast
WHat time this worlds great workmaister
 To make al things, such as we now behold
 It seemes that he before his eyes had plast
 A goodly Paterne to whose perfect mould,
 He fashioned them as comely as he could,
 That now so faire and seemely they appeare,
 As nought may be amended any where.

That wondrous Paterne wheresoere it bee,
 Whether in earth layd vp in secret store,
 Or else in heauen, that no man may it see
 With sinfull eyes, for feare it to deflore,
 Is perfect Beautie which all men adore,
 Whose face and feature doth so much excell
 All mortall sence, that none the same may tell.

Thereof as enery earthly thing partakes,
 Or more or lesse by influence diuine,
 So it more faire accordingly it makes,
 And the grosse matter of this earthly myne,
 Which clotheth it, thereafter doth refyne,
 Doing away the drosse which dims the light
 Of that faire beame, which therein is empight.

For

For through infusion of celeftiall powre,
 The duller earth it quickneth with delight,
 And life-full spirits priuily doth powre
 Through all the parts, that to the lookers fight
 They seeme to please. That is thy soueraine might,
 O *Cyprian* Queene, which flowing from the beame
 Of thy bright starre, thou into them doest streame.

That is the thing which giueth pleasant grace
 To all things faire, that kindleth liuely fyre,
 Light of thy lampe, which shyning in the face,
 Thence to the soule darts amorous desyre,
 And robs the harts of those which it admyre,
 Therewith thou pointest thy Sons poyshed arrow,
 That wounds the life, & wastes the inmost marrow.

How vainely then doe ydle wits inuent,
 That beautie is nought else, but mixture made
 Of colours faire, and goodly temp'rament
 Of pure complexions, that shall quickly fade
 And passe away, like to a sommers shade,
 Or that it is but comely composition
 Of parts well measurd, with meet disposition.

Hath white and red in it such wondrous powre,
 That it can pierce through th'eyes vnto the hart,
 And therein stirre such rage and restlesse stowre,
 As nought but death can stint his dolours smart?
 Or can proportion of the outward part,
 Moue such affection in the inward mynd,
 That it can rob both sense and reason blynd?

Why doe not then the blossomes of the field,
 Which are arayd with much more orient hew,
 And to the sense most daintie odours yield,
 Worke like impression in the lookers view?
 Or why doe not faire pictures like powre shew,
 In which oft times, we Nature see of Art
 Exceld, in perfect limming euery part.

But ah, beleue me, there is more then so
 That workes such wonders in the minds of men.
 I that haue often prou'd, too well it know;
 And who so list the like assayes to ken,
 Shall find by tryall, and confesse it then,
 That Beautie is not, as fond men misdeeme,
 An outward shew of things, that onely seeme.

For that same goodly hew of white and red,
 With which the cheekes are sprinckled, shal decay,
 And those sweete rosy leaues so fairely spred
 Vpon the lips, shall fade and fall away
 To that they were, euen to corrupted clay.
 That golden wyre, those sparckling stars so bright
 Shall turne to dust, and loose their goodly light.

But that faire lampe, from whose celestiall ray
 That light proceedes, which kindleth louers fire,
 Shall neuer be extinguisht nor decay,
 But when the vitall spirits doe expyre,
 Vnto her natieue planet shall retyre,
 For it is heauenly borne and can not die,
 Being a parcell of the purest skie.

For when the soule, the which deriued was
 At first, out of that great immortall Spright,
 By whom all liue to loue, whilome did pas
 Downe from the top of purest heauens hight,
 To be embodied here, it then tooke light
 And liuely spirits from that fayrest starre,
 Which lights the world forth from his fire carre.

Which powre retayning still or more or lesse,
 When she in fleshly seede is est enraced,
 Through euery part she doth the same impress,
 According as the heauens haue her graced,
 And frames her house, in which she will be placed,
 Fit for her selfe, adorning it with spoyle
 Of th'heauenly riches, which she robd erewhyle.

Therof it comes, that these faire soules, which haue
 The most resemblance of that heauenly light,
 Frame to themselues most beautifull and braue
 Their fleshly bowre, most fit for their delight,
 And the grosse matter by a soueraine might
 Tempers so trim, that it may well be scene,
 A pallace fit for such a virgin Queene.

So euery spirit, as it is most pure,
 And hath in it the more of heauenly light,
 So it the fairer bodie doth procure
 To habit in, and it more fairely dight
 With chearefull grace and amiable sight.
 For of the soule the bodie forme doth take:
 For soule is forme, and doth the bodie make.

Therefore where euer that thou doest behold
 A comely corpe, with beautie faire endewed,
 Know this for certaine, that the same doth hold
 A beauteous soule, with faire conditions thewed,
 Fit to receiue the seede of vertue strewed.
 For all that faire is, is by nature good;
 That is a signe to know the gentle blood.

Yet oft it falles, that many a gentle mynd
 Dwels in deformed tabernacle drownd;
 Either by chaunce, against the course of kynd,
 Or through vnaptnesse in the substance fownd,
 Which it assumed of some stubborne grownd,
 That will not yield vnto her formes direction,
 But is perform'd with some foule imperfection.

And oft it falles (ay me the more to rew)
 That goodly beautie, albe heauenly borne,
 Is foule abused, and that celestiall hew,
 Which doth the world with her delight adorne,
 Made but the bait of sinne, and sinners scorne;
 Whilest enery one doth seeke and sew to haue it,
 But euery one doth seeke, but to deprauie it.

Yet nathemore is that faire beauties blame,
 But theirs that do abuse it vnto ill:
 Nothing so good, but that through guilty shame
 May be corrupt, and wrested vnto will.
 Nathelesse the soule is faire and beauteous still,
 How euer fleshes fault it filthy make:
 For things immortall no corruption take.

But

But ye faire Dames, the worlds deare ornaments,
And liuely images of heauens light,
Let not your beames with such disparagements
Be dimd, and your bright glorie darkned quight,
But mindfull still of your first countries sight,
Doe still preferue your first informed grace,
Whose shadow yet shynes in your beauteous face.

Loath that foule blot, that hellish fierbrand,
Disloiall lust, faire beauties foulest blame,
That base affectiōs, which your eares would bland,
Commend to you by loues abused name;
But is indeede the bondslaue of defame,
Which will the garland of your glorie marre,
And quēch the light of your bright shyning starre.

But gentle Loue, that loiall is and trew,
Will more illumine your resplendent ray,
And adde more brightnesse to your goodly hew,
From light of his pure fire, which by like way
Kindled of yours, your likenesse doth display,
Like as two mirrours by opposd reflexion,
Doe both expresse the faces first impression.

Therefore to make your beutie more appeare,
It you behoues to loue, and forth to lay
That heauenly riches, which in you ye beare,
That men the more admyre their fountaine may,
For else what booteth that celestiall ray,
If it in darknesse be enshrined euer,
That it of louing eyes be vewed neuer?

But in your choice of Loues, this well aduize,
 That likest to your selues ye them select,
 The which your forms first sourse may sympathize,
 And with like beauties parts be inly deckt:
 For if you loosely loue without respect,
 It is no loue, but a discordant warre,
 Whose vnlike parts amongst themselves do iarre.

For Loue is a celestiaall harmonie,
 Of likely harts composd of starres concent,
 Which ioyne together in sweete sympathie,
 To worke ech others ioy and true content,
 Which they haue harbourd since their first descēt
 Out of their heauenly bowres, where they did see
 And know ech other here belou'd to bee.

Then wrong it were that any other twaine
 Should in loues gentle band combyned bee,
 But those whom heauen did at first ordaine,
 And made out of one mould the more t'agree:
 For all that like the beautie which they see,
 Streight do not loue: for loue is not so light,
 As streight to burne at first beholders sight.

But they which loue indeede, looke otherwise,
 With pure regard and spotlesse true intent,
 Drawing out of the object of their eyes,
 A more refyned forme, which they present
 Vnto their mind, voide of all blemishment;
 Which it reducing to her first perfection,
 Beholdeth free from fleshes frayle infection.

And

And then conforming it vnto the light,
Which in it selfe it hath remaining still
Of that first Sunne, yet sparckling in his sight,
Thereof he fashions in his higher skill,
An heauenly beautie to his fancies will,
And it embracing in his mind entyre,
The mirrour of his owne thought doth admyre.

Which seeing now so inly faire to be,
As outward it appeareth to the eye,
And with his spirits proportion to agree,
He thereon fixeth all his fantasie,
And fully setteth his felicitie,
Counting it fairer, then it is indeede,
And yet indeede her fairenesse doth exceede.

For louers eyes more sharply sighted bee
Then other mens, and in deare loues delight
See more then any other eyes can see,
Through mutuall receipt of beames bright,
Which carrie priuie message to the spright,
And to their eyes that inmost faire display,
As plaine as light discouers dawning day.

Therein they see through amorous eye-glaunces,
Armies of loues still flying too and fro,
Which dart at them their litle fierie launces,
Whom hauing wounded, backe againe they go,
Carrying compassion to their louely foe;
Who seeing her faire eyes so sharpe effect,
Cures all their sorrowes with one sweete aspect.

In which how many wonders doe they reede
 To their conceipt, that others neuer see, (feede,
 Now of her smiles, with which their soules they
 Like Gods with Nectar in their bankets free,
 Now of her lookes, which like to Cordials bee;
 But when her words embassade forth she sends,
 Lord how sweete musicke that vnto them lends.

Sometimes vpon her forehead they behold
 A thousand Graces masking in delight,
 Sometimes within her eye-lids they vnfold
 Ten thousand sweet belgards, which to their sight
 Doe seeme like twinckling starres in frostie night:
 But on her lips like rosy buds in May,
 So many millions of chaste pleasures play.

All those, ô *Cytherea*, and thousands more
 Thy handmaides be, which do on thee attend
 To decke thy beautie with their dainties store,
 That may it more to mortall eyes commend,
 And make it more admyr'd of foe and frend;
 That in mens harts thou mayst thy throne enstall,
 And spred thy louely kingdome ouer all.

Then *Io triumph*, ô great beauties Queene,
 Aduance the banner of thy conquest hie,
 That all this world, the which thy vassals beene,
 May draw to thee, and with dew fealtie,
 Adore the powre of thy great Maiestie,
 Singing this Hymne in honour of thy name,
 Compyld by me, which thy poore liegeman am.

In lieu whereof graunt, ô great Soueraigne,
That she whose conquering beautie doth captiue
My trembling hart in her eternall chaine,
One drop of grace at length will to me giue,
That I her bounden thrall by her may liue,
And this same life, which first from me she reaued,
May owe to her, of whom I it receaued.

And you faire *Venus* dearling, my deare dread,
Fresh flowre of grace, great Goddesse of my life,
Whē your faire eyes these fearefull lines shal read,
Deigne to let fall one drop of dew reliefe,
That may recure my harts long pyning grieffe,
And shew what wōdrous powre your beauty hath,
That can restore a damned wight from death.

F I N I S.

D ij



AN HYMNE OF HEAVENLY LOVE.

Loue, lift me vp vpon thy golden wings,
From this base world vnto thy heauens hight,
Where I may see those admirable things,
Which there thou workest by thy soueraigne might,
Farre aboue feeble reach of earthly sight,
That I thereof an heavenly Hymne may sing
Vnto the god of Loue, high heauens king.

Many lewd layes (ah woe is me the more)
In praise of that mad fit, which fooles call loue,
I haue in th'heat of youth made heretofore,
That in light wits did loose affection moue.
But all those follies now I do reprove,
And turned haue the tenor of my string,
The heavenly prayses of true loue to sing.

And ye that wont with greedy vaine desire
To reade my fault, and wondring at my flame,
To warme your selues at my wide sparckling fire,
Sith now that heat is quenched, quench my blame,
And in her ashes shrowd my dying shame:
For who my passed follies now pursues,
Beginnes his owne, and my old fault renewes.

Before.

BEfore this worlds great frame, in which all things
Are now containd, found any being place,
Ere sitting Time could wag his eyes wings
About that mightie bound, which doth embrace
The rolling Spheres, & parts their houres by space,
That high eternall powre, which now doth moue
In all these things, mou'd in it selfe by loue.

It lou'd it selfe, because it selfe was faire;
(For faire is lou'd;) and of it selfe begot
Like to it selfe his eldest sonne and heire,
Eternall, pure; and voide of sinfull blot,
The firstling of his ioy, in whom no iot
Of loues dislike, or pride was to be found,
Whom he therefore with equall honour crown'd.

With him he raignd, before all time prescribed,
In endlesse glorie and immortall might,
Together with that third from them deriued,
Most wise, most holy, most almightie Spright,
Whose kingdomes throne no thought of earthly
Can cōprehēd, much lesse my trēbling verse (wight
With equall words can hope it to reherse.

Yet ô most blessed Spirit, pure lampe of light,
Eternall spring of grace and wisdomes trew,
Vouchsafe to shed into my barren spright,
Some little drop of thy celestiall dew,
That may my rymes with sweet infuse embrew,
And giue me words equall vnto my thought,
To tell the marueiles by thy mercie wrought.

Yet being pregnant still with powrefull grace,
 And full offruitfull loue, that loues to get
 Things like himfelfe, and to enlarge his race,
 His fecond brood though not in powre fo great,
 Yet full of beautie, next he did beget
 An infinite increafe of Angels bright,
 All gliftring glorious in their Makers light.

To them the heauens illimitable hight,
 Not this round heauē, which we frō hence behold,
 Adorn'd with thouſand lamps of burning light,
 And with ten thouſand gemmes of ſhyning gold,
 He gaue as their inheritance to hold,
 That they might ſerue him in eternall blis,
 And be partakers of thoſe ioyes of his.

There they in their trinall triplicities
 About him wait, and on his will depend,
 Either with nimble wings to cut the ſkies,
 When he them on his meſſages doth ſend,
 Or on his owne dread preſence to attend,
 Where they behold the glorie of his light,
 And caroll Hymnes of loue both day and night.

Both day and night is vnto them all one,
 For he his beames doth ſtill to them extend,
 That darkneſſe there appeareth neuer none,
 Ne hath their day, ne hath their bliſſe an end,
 But there their termeleſſe time in pleaſure ſpend,
 Ne euer ſhould their happineſſe decay,
 Had not they dar'd their Lord to diſobay.

But

But pride impatient of long resting peace,
Did puffed them vp with greedy bold ambition,
That they gan cast their state how to increase,
Aboue the fortune of their first condition,
And sit in Gods owne seat without commission:
The brightest Angell, euen the Child of light
Drew millions more against their God to fight.

Th'Almighty seeing their so bold assay,
Kindled the flame of his consuming yre,
And with his onely breath them blew away
From heauens hight, to which they did aspyre,
To deepest hell, and lake of damned fyre;
Where they in darknesse and dread horror dwell,
Hating the happie light from which they fell.

So that next off-spring of the Makers loue,
Next to himselfe in glorious degree,
Degendering to hate fell from aboue
Through pride; (for pride and loue may ill agree)
And now of sinne to all ensample bee:
How then can sinfull flesh it selfe assure,
Sith purest Angels fell to be impure?

But that eternall fount of loue and grace,
Still flowing forth his goodnesse vnto all,
Now seeing left a waste and emptie place
In his wyde Pallace, through those Angels fall,
Cast to supply the same, and to enstall
A new vnknown Colony therein; (begin.
Whose root from earths base groundworke shold

Therefore of clay, base, vile, and next to nought,
 Yet form'd by wondrous skill, and by his might:
 According to an heavenly patternewrought,
 Which he had fashiond in his wise foresight,
 He man did make, and breathd a liuing spright
 Into his face most beautifull and fayre,
 Endewd with wisedomes riches, heavenly, rare.

Such he him made, that he resemble might
 Himselfe, as mortall thing immortall could;
 Him to be Lord of euery liuing wight,
 He made by loue out of his owne like mould,
 In whom he might his mightie selfe behould:
 For loue doth loue the thing belou'd to see,
 That like it selfe in louely shape may bee.

But man forgetfull of his makers grace,
 No lesse then Angels, whom he did ensue,
 Fell from the hope of promist heavenly place,
 Into the mouth of death to sinners dew,
 And all his off-spring into thraldome threw:
 Where they for euer should in bonds remaine,
 Of neuer dead, yet euer dying paine.

Till that great Lord of Loue, which him at first
 Made of meere loue, and after liked well,
 Seeing him lielike creature long accurst,
 In that deepe horror of despayred hell,
 Him wretch in doole would let no lenger dwell,
 But cast out of that bondage to redeeme,
 And pay the price, all were his debt extreme.

Out of the bosome of eternall blisse,
 In which he reigned with his glorious syre,
 He downe descended, like a most demisse
 And abiect thrall, in fleshes fraile attyre,
 That he for him might pay sinnes deadly hyre,
 And him restore vnto that happie state,
 In which he stood before his haplesse fate.

In flesh at first the guilt committed was,
 Therefore in flesh it must be satisfyde:
 Nor spirit, nor Angell, though they man surpas,
 Could make amends to God for mans misguyde,
 But onely man himselfe, who selfe did flyde.
 So taking flesh of sacred virgins wombe,
 For mans deare sake he did a man become,

And that most blessed bodie, which was borne
 Without all blemish or reprochfull blame,
 He freely gaue to be both rent and torne
 Of cruell hands, who with despightfull shame
 Reuyling him, that them most vile became,
 At length him nayled on a gallow tree,
 And slew the iust, by most vniust decree.

O huge and most vnspeakeable impression
 Of loues deepe wound, that pierst the piteous hart
 Of that deare Lord with so entyre affection,
 And sharply launching euery inner part,
 Dolours of death into his soule did dart,
 Doing him die, that neuer it deserued,
 To free his foes, that from his heast had swerued.

What hart can feele least touch of so sore launch,
 Or thought can think the depth of so deare wound?
 Whose bleeding fource their streames yet neuer
 But stil do flow, & freshly still redound, (staunch,
 To heale the sores of sinfull soules vnfound,
 And cleanse the guilt of that infected cryme,
 Which was enrooted in all fleshy slyme.

O blessed well of loue, o floure of grace,
 O glorious Morning starre, o lampe of light,
 Most liuely image of thy fathers face,
 Eternall King of glorie, Lord of might,
 Mecke lambe of God before all worlds behight,
 How can we thee requite for all this good?
 Or what can prize that thy most precious blood?

Yet nought thou ask'st in lieu of all this loue,
 But loue of vs for guerdon of thy paine.
 Ay me; what can vs lesse then that behoue?
 Had he required life of vs againe,
 Had it beene wrong to aske his owne with gaine?
 He gaue vs life, he it restored lost;
 Then life were least, that vs so litle cost.

But he our life hath left ynto vs free,
 Free that was thrall, and blessed that was band;
 Ne ought demands, but that we louing bee,
 As he himselfe hath lou'd vs afore hand,
 And bound thereto with an eternall band,
 Him first to loue, that vs so dearely bought,
 And next, our brethren to his image wrought.

Him

Him first to loue, great right and reason is,
Who first to vs our life and being gaue;
And after when we fared had amisse,
Vs wretches from the second death did saue;
And last the food of life, which now we haue,
Euen himselfe in his deare sacrament,
To feede our hungry soules vnto vs lent.

Then next to loue our brethren, that were made
Of that selfe mould, and that selfe makers hand,
That we, and to the same againe shall fade,
Where they shall haue like heritage of land,
How euer here on higher steps we stand;
Which also were with selfe same price redeemed
That we, how euer of vs light esteemed.

And were they not, yet since that louing Lord
Commaunded vs to loue them for his sake,
Euen for his sake, and for his sacred word,
Which in his last bequest he to vs spake,
We should them loue, & with their needs partake;
Knowing that whatsoere to them we giue,
We giue to him, by whom we all doe liue.

Such mercy he by his most holy reede
Vnto vs taught, and to approue it trew,
Ensampled it by his most righteous deede,
Shewing vs mercie miserable crew,
That we the like should to the wretches shew,
And loue our brethren; thereby to approue,
How much himselfe that loued vs, we loue.

Then rouze thy selfe, ô earth, out of thy soyle,
 In which thou wallowest like to filthy swyne,
 And doest thy mynd in durty pleasures moyle,
 Vnmindfull of that dearest Lord of thine;
 Lift vp to him thy heauie clouded eyne,
 That thou his soueraine bountie mayst behold,
 And read through loue his mercies manifold.

Beginne from first, where he encradled was
 In simple cratch, wrapt in a wad of hay,
 Betweene the toylefull Oxe and humble Asse,
 And in what rags, and in how base aray,
 The glory of our heauenly riches lay,
 When him the silly Shepheards came to see,
 Whom greatest Princes sought on lowest knee.

From thence reade on the storie of his life,
 His humble carriage, his vnfaulty wayes,
 His cancred foes, his fights, his toyle, his strife,
 His paines, his pouertie, his sharpe assayes,
 Through which he past his miserable dayes,
 Offending none, and doing good to all,
 Yet being malist both of great and small.

And looke at last how of most wretched wights,
 He taken was, betrayd, and false accused,
 How with most scornfull taunts, & fell despights
 He was reuyld, disgrast, and foule abused, (brused;
 How scourgd, how crownd, how buffeted, how
 And lastly how twixt robbers crucifyde; (& fyde.
 With bitter wounds through hands, through feet
 Then

Then let thy flinty hart that feeles no paine,
 Empierced be with pittifull remorse,
 And let thy bowels bleede in euery vaine,
 At sight of his most sacred heauenly corse,
 So torne and mangled with malicious force,
 And let thy soule, whose sins his sorrows wrought,
 Melt into teares, and grone in grieved thought.

With sence whereof whilest so thy softened spirit
 Is inly toucht, and humbled with meeke zeale,
 Through meditation of his endlesse merit,
 Lift vp thy mind to th'author of thy weale,
 And to his soueraine mercie doe appeale;
 Learne him to loue, that loued thee so deare,
 And in thy brest his blessed image beare.

With all thy hart, with all thy soule and mind,
 Thou must him loue, and his behests embrace,
 All other loues, with which the world doth blind
 Weake fancies, and stirre vp affections base,
 Thou must renounce, and vtterly displace,
 And giue thy selfe vnto him full and free,
 That full and freely gaue himselfe to thee.

Then shalt thou feelee thy spirit so possesse,
 And ravisht with deuouring great desire
 Of his deare selfe, that shall thy feeble brest
 Inflame with loue, and set thee all on fire
 With burning zeale, through euery part entire,
 That in no earthly thing thou shalt delight,
 But in his sweet and amiable sight.

Thenceforth all worlds desire will in thee dye,
 And all earthes glorie on which men do gaze,
 Seeme durt and drosse in thy pure sighted eye,
 Compar'd to that celestially beauties blaze,
 Whose glorious beames all fleshly sense doth daze
 With admiration of their passing light,
 Blinding the eyes and luming the spright.

Then shall thy ravisht soule inspired bee
 With heauely thoughts, farre aboue humane skil,
 And thy bright radiant eyes shall plainly see
 Th' Idee of his pure glorie present still,
 Before thy face, that all thy spirits shall fill
 With sweete enragement of celestially loue,
 Kindled through sight of those faire things aboue.

F I N I S.

AN



AN HYMNE OF HEAVENLY BEAUTIE.

Rapt with the rage of mine own rauisht thought,
Through cōtemplation of those goodly sights,
And glorious images in heauen wrought,
Whose wōdrous beauty breathing sweet delights,
Do kindle loue in high conceived sprights :
I faine to tell the things that I behold,
But feele my wits to faile, and tongue to fold.

Vouchsafe then, o thou most almightie Spright,
From whom all guists of wit and knowledge flow,
To shed into my breast some sparkling light
Of thine eternall Truth, that I may show
Some litle beames to mortall eyes below,
Of that immortall beautie, there with thee,
Which in my weake distraughted mynd I see.

That with the glorie of so goodly sight,
The hearts of men, which fondly here admyre
Faire-seeming shewes, and feed on vaine delight,
Transported with celestiaall desyre
Of those faire formes, may lift themselves vp hye,
And leame to loue with zealous humble dewty
Th'eternall fountaine of that heauenly beauty.

Beginning then below, with th'easie vew
 Of this base world, subiect to fleshly eye,
 From thence to mount aloft by order dew,
 To contemplation of th'immortall sky,
 Of the soare faulcon so I learne to fly,
 That flaps awhile her fluttering wings beneath,
 Till she her selfe for stronger flight can breath.

Then looke who list, thy gazefull eyes to feed,
 With sight of that is faire, looke on the frame
 Of this wyde *universe*, and therein reed
 The endlesse kinds of creatures, which by name
 Thou cast not count, much lesse their natures aime:
 All which are made with wondrous wise respect,
 And all with admirable beautie deckt.

First th'Earth, on adamantine pillers founded,
 Amid the Sea engirt with brasen bands,
 Then th'Aire still flitting, but yet firmly bounded
 On euerie side, with pyles of flaming brands,
 Neuer consum'd nor quencht with mortall hands;
 And last, that mightie shining christall wall,
 Wherewith he hath encompassed this All.

By view whereof, it plainly may appeare,
 That still as euery thing doth vpward tend,
 And further is from earth, so still more cleare
 And faire it growes, till to his perfect end
 Of purest beautie, it at last ascend:
 Ayre more then water, fire much more then ayre,
 And heauen then fire appeares more pure & fayre.
 Looke

Looke thou no further, but affixe thine eye,
 On that bright shynie round still mouing Masse,
 The house of blessed Gods, which men call *Skye*,
 All sowed with glistring stars more thicke the grasse,
 Whereof each other doth in brightnesse passe;
 But those two most, which ruling night and day,
 As King and Queene, the heauens Empire sway.

And tell me then, what hast thou euer seene,
 That to their beautie may compared bee,
 Or can the sight that is most sharpe and keene,
 Endure their Captains flaming head to see?
 How much lesse those, much higher in degree,
 And so much fairer, and much more then these,
 As these are fairer then the land and seas?

For farre about these heauens which here we see,
 Be others farre exceeding these in light,
 Not bounded, not corrupt, as these same bee,
 But infinite in largenesse and in hight,
 Vnmouing, vncorrupt, and spotlesse bright,
 That need no Sunne t'illuminate their spheres,
 But their owne natie light farre passing theirs.

And as these heauens still by degrees arize,
 Vntill they come to their first Mouers bound,
 That in his mightie compasse doth comprize,
 And carrie all the rest with him around,
 So those likewise doe by degrees redound,
 And rise more faire, till they at last ariue
 To the most faire, whereto they all do striue.

Faire is the heauen, where happy soules haue place,
 In full enioyment of felicitie,
 Whence they doe still behold, the glorious face
 Of the diuine eternall Maiestie,
 More faire is that, where those *Idees* on hie
 Enraunged be, which *Plato* so admyred,
 And pure *Intelligences* from God inspyred.

Yet fairer is that heauen, in which doe raïne
 The soueraigne *Powres* and mightie *Potentates*,
 Which in their high protections doe containe:
 All mortall Princes, and imperiall States;
 And fayrer yet, whereas the royall Seates
 And heavenly *Dominations* are set,
 From whom all earthly gouernance is fet.

Yet farre more faire be those bright *Cherubins*,
 Which all with golden wings are overdight,
 And those eternall burning *Seraphins*,
 Which from their faces dart out fierie light;
 Yet fairer then they both, and much more bright
 Be th' Angels and Archangels, which attend
 On Gods owne person, without rest or end.

These thus in faire each other farre excelling,
 As to the Highest they approach more neare,
 Yet is that Highest farre beyond all telling,
 Fairer then all the rest which there appeare,
 Though all their beauties ioyn'd togelie were:
 How then can mortall tongue hope to expresse,
 The image of such endlesse perfectnesse.

Cease then my tongue, and lend vnto my mynd
 Leauē to bethinke how great that beautie is,
 Whose vtmost parts so beautifull I fynd,
 How much more those essentiall parts of his,
 His truth, his loue, his wisdomē, and his blis,
 His grace, his doome, his mercy and his might,
 By which he lends vs of himselfe a sight.

Those vnto all he daily doth display,
 And shew himselfe in th' image of his grace,
 As in a looking glasse, through which he may
 Be scene, of all his creatures vile and base,
 That are vnable else to see his face,
 His glorious face which glistereth else so bright,
 That th' Angels selues can not endure his sight.

But we fraile wights, whose sight cannot sustaine
 The Suns bright beames, whē he on vs doth shyne,
 But that their points rebutted backe againe
 Are duld, how can we see, with feeble eyne,
 The glory of that Maiestie diuine,
 In sight of whom both Sun and Moone are darke,
 Compared to his least resplendent sparke?

The meanes therefore which vnto vs is lent,
 Him to behold, is on his workes to looke,
 Which he hath made in beauty excellent,
 And in the same, as in a brasen booke,
 To reade enregistred in euery nooke
 His goodnesse, which his beautie doth declare,
 For all thats good, is beautifull and faire.

Thence gathering plumes of perfect speculation,
 To impe the wings of thy high flying mynd,
 Mount vp aloft through heavenly contemplation,
 From this darke world, whose damps the soule do
 And like the natiue brood of Eagles kynd, (blynd,
 On that bright Sunne of glorie fixe thine eyes,
 Clear'd from grosse mists of fraile infirmities.

Humbled with feare and awfull reuerence,
 Before the footestool of his Maiestie,
 Throw thy selfe downe with trembling innocence,
 Ne dare looke vp with corruptible eye,
 On the dred face of that great *Deity*,
 For feare, lest if he chaunce to looke on thee,
 Thou turne to nought, and quite confounded be.

But lowly fall before his mercie seate,
 Close couered with the Lambes integrity,
 From the iust wrath of his auengfull threate,
 That sits vpon the righteous throne on hy:
 His throne is built vpon Eternity,
 More firme and durable then Steele or brasse,
 Or the hard diamond, which them both doth passe.

His scepter is the rod of Righteousnesse,
 With which he brufeth all his foes to dust,
 And the great Dragon strongly doth repress,
 Vnder the rigour of his iudgement iust;
 His seate is Truth, to which the faithfull trust,
 Frō whence proceed her beames so pure & bright,
 That all about him sheddeth glorious light.

Light

Light farre exceeding that bright blazing sparke,
 Which darted is from *Titans* flaming head,
 That with his beames enlumineth the darke
 The dark & dampish aire, wherby al things are red:
 Whose nature yet so much is maruelled
 Of mortall wits, that it doth much amaze
 The greatest wisards, which thereon do gaze.

But that immortall light which there doth shine,
 Is many thousand times more cleare,
 More excellent, more glorious, more diuine,
 Through which to God all mortall actions here,
 And euen the thoughts of men, do plaine appeare:
 For from th'eternall Truth it doth proceed,
 Through heauenly vertue, which her beames doe
 (breed.

With the great glorie of that wondrous light,
 His throne is all encompassed around,
 And hid in his owne brightnesse from the sight
 Of all that looke thereon with eyes vnfound:
 And vnderneath his feet are to be found,
 Thunder, and lightning, and tempestuous fyre,
 The instruments of his auenging yre.

There in his bosome *Sapience* doth sit,
 The soueraigne dearling of the *Deity*,
 Clad like a Queene in royall robes, most fit
 For so great powre and peerelesse maiesty,
 And all with gemmes and iewels gorgeously
 Adorn'd, that brighter then the starres appeare,
 And make her natue brightnes seem more cleare.

And on her head a crowne of purest gold
 Is set, in signe of highest soueraignty,
 And in her hand a scepter she doth hold,
 With which she rules the house of God on hy,
 And menageth the euer-mouing sky,
 And in the same these lower creatures all,
 Subiected to her powre imperiall.

Both heauen and earth obey vnto her will,
 And all the creatures which they both containe:
 For of her fulnesse which the world doth fill,
 They all partake, and do in state remaine,
 As their great Maker did at first ordaine,
 Through obseruation of her high becheast,
 By which they first were made, and still increast.

The fairenesse of her face no tongue can tell,
 For she the daughters of all wemens race,
 And Angels eke, in beautie doth excell,
 Sparkled on her from Gods owne glorious face,
 And more increast by her owne goodly grace,
 That it doth farre exceed all humane thought,
 Ne can on earth compared be to ought.

Ne could that Painter (had he liued yet)
 Which pictured *Venus* with so curious quill,
 That all posteritie admyred it,
 Haue purtrayd this, for all his maistring skill;
 Ne she her selfe, had she remained still,
 And were as faire, as fabling wits do fayne,
 Could once come neare this beauty souerayne.

But

But had those wits the wonders of their dayes,
 Or that sweete *Teian* Poet which did spend
 His plenteous vaine in setting forth her prayse,
 Seene but a glims of this, which I pretend,
 How wondrously would he her face commend,
 Aboue that Idole of his fayning thought,
 That all the world shold with his rimes be fraught?

How then dare I, the nouice of his Art,
 Presume to picture so diuine a wight,
 Or hope to expresse her least perfections part,
 Whose beautie fillsthe heauens with her light,
 And darkes the earth with shadow of her sight?
 Ah gentle Muse thou art too weake and faint,
 The pourtraict of so heavenly hew to paint.

Let Angels which her goodly face behold
 And see at will, her soueraigne praises sing,
 And those most sacred mysteries vnfold,
 Of that faire loue of mightie heauens king.
 Enough is me to admyre so heavenly thing,
 And being thus with her huge loue possesst,
 In th'only wonder of her selfe to rest.

But who so may, thrise happie man him hold,
 Of all on earth, whom God so much doth grace,
 And lets his owne Beloued to behold:
 For in the view of her celestiall face,
 All ioy, all blisse, all happinesse haue place,
 Ne ought on earth can want vnto the wight,
 Who of her selfe can win the wishfull sight.

For she out of her secret treasury,
 Plentie of riches forth on him will powre,
 Euen heauenly riches, which there hidden ly
 Within the closet of her chasteſt bowre,
 Th'eternall portion of her precious dowre,
 Which mighty God hath giuen to her free,
 And to all thoſe which thereof worthy bee.

None thereof worthy be, but thoſe whom ſhee
 Vouchſafeth to her preſence to receaue,
 And letteth them her louely face to ſee,
 VVherof ſuch wondrous pleaſures they conceaue,
 And ſweete contentment, that it doth bereaue
 Their ſoule of ſenſe, through infinite delight,
 And them transport from fleſh into the ſpright.

In which they ſee ſuch admirable things,
 As carries them into an extaſy,
 And heare ſuch heauenly notes, and carolings
 Of Gods high praiſe, that fills the braſen ſky,
 And feele ſuch ioy and pleaſure inwardly,
 That maketh them all worldly cares forget,
 And onely thinke on that before them ſet.

Ne from thenceforth doth any fleſhly ſenſe,
 Or idle thought of earthly things remaine,
 But all that earſt ſeemd ſweet, ſeemes now offence,
 And all that pleaſed earſt, now ſeemes to paine,
 Their ioy, their comfort, their deſire, their gaine,
 Is fixed all on that which now they ſee,
 All other ſights but fayned ſhadowes bee.

And

And that faire lampe, which vseth to enflame
 The hearts of men with selfe consuming fyre,
 Thenceforth seemes fowle, & full of sinfull blame;
 And all that pompe, to which proud minds aspyre
 By name of honor, and so much desyre,
 Seemes to them basenesse, and all riches drosse,
 And all mirth sadnesse, and all lucre losse.

So full their eyes are of that glorious sight,
 And senses fraught with such satietie,
 That in nought else on earth they can delight,
 But in th'aspect of that felicitie,
 Which they haue written in their inward ey;
 On which they feed, and in their fastened mynd
 All happie ioy and full contentment fynd.

Ah then my hungry soule, which long hast fed
 On idle fancies of thy foolish thought,
 And with false beauties flattrring bait misled,
 Hast after vaine deceitfull shadows sought,
 Which all are fled, and now haue left thee nought,
 But late repentance through thy follies prief;
 Ah cease to gaze no matter of thy grief.

And looke at last vp to that soueraine light,
 From whose pure beams al perfect beauty springs,
 That kindleth loue in euery godly spright,
 Euen the loue of God, which loathing brings
 Of this vile world, and these gay seeming things;
 With whose sweete pleasures being so posselt,
 Thy straying thoughts henceforth for euer rest.

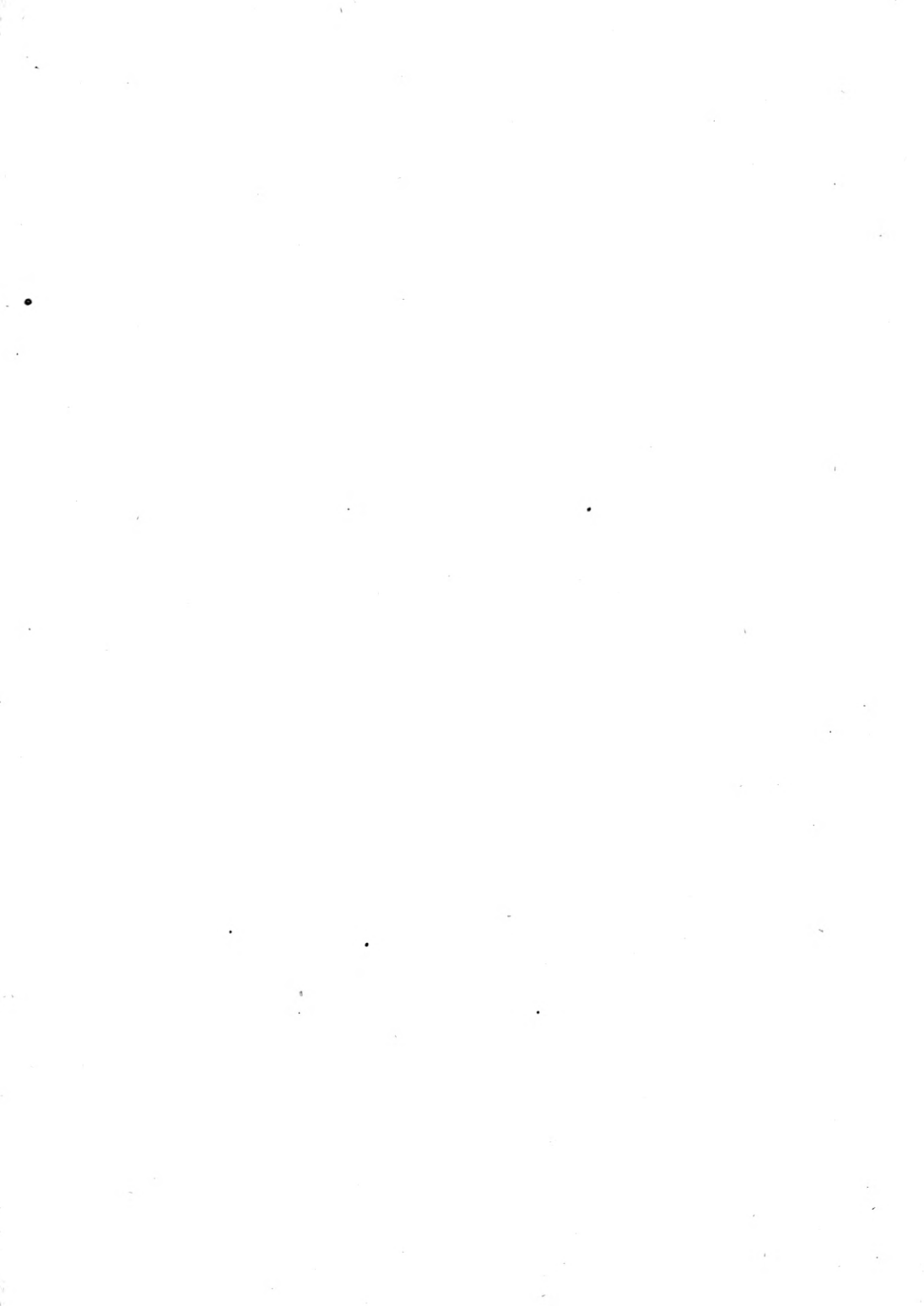
HEAVENLY BEAUTIE.

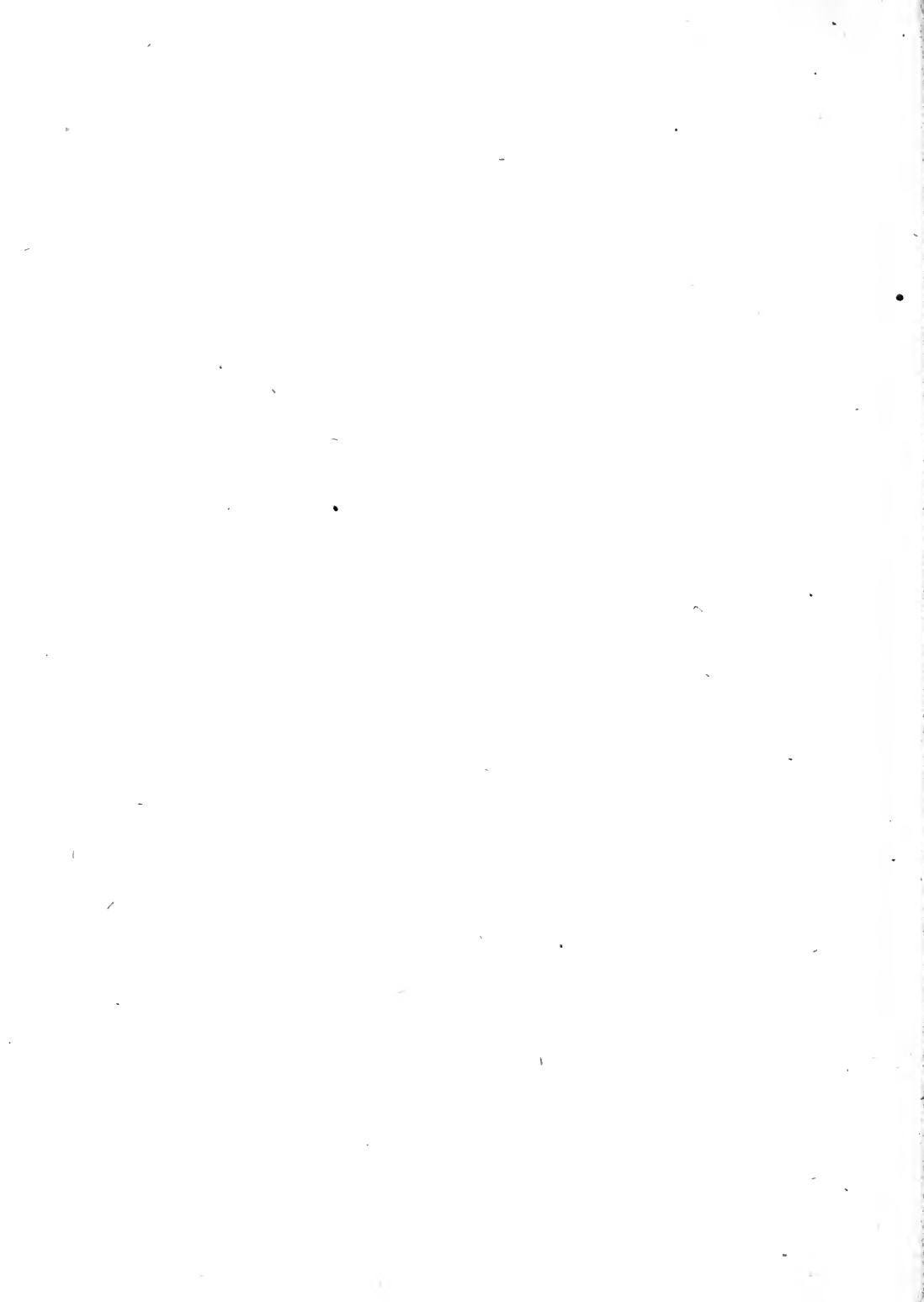
And that faire lamp, which is to shine
The heart of man with its beaming fire
Thenceforth shines forth, & full of inward flames;
And all that hope, to which proud minds ascribe
By name of honor, and so much desire,
Seems to them barren, and all riches dross,
And all mirth sadnesse, and all merriment loss.

So full their eyes are of that glorious sight,
And senses fraught with such fantastic
That in nought else on earth they can delight,
But in the object of that felicity;
Which they have written in their inward eye;
On which they feed, and in their fastened mind
All happiness and full contentment find.

As then my hungry soul, which long had fed
On idle fancies of this foolish thought,
And with false beauties darning bait misled,
Hath after vain desire still the dower sought,
Which all are led, and now have lost this thought;
But late repentance through thy follies brings;
Ah! could I give no matter of thy grief.

And look at last up to that luminous light,
From whose pure beams all perfect beauty springs,
That kindleth love in every body's sight,
Even the love of God, which nothing brings
Of this vile world, and these gay seeming things;
With whose sweet pleasures being so possessed,
Thy stray thoughts henceforth for ever rest.





Diur





